

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 05658 012027Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /096 W

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O 011935Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 129

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5658

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, FR, CG

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES FROM SHABA

REF A) JUNIOR/CUTLER TELECON JUNE 1

B) USCINCEUR MSG DTG 2011140Z JUN

C) KINSHASA 5545

1. CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI HAS CONVEYED TO EMBASSY ITS SERIOUS CONCERN THAT PULL-OUT OF FRENCH FORCES BEFORE ARRIVAL OF REPLACEMENT FORCE MAY TRIGGER PANIC AND DEMAND FOR EVACUATION BY ALL EXPATRIATES IN LUBUMBASHI AREA. WHETHER OR NOT WITHDRAWAL OF ONLY TWO-THIRDS RATHER THAN ALL OF FRENCH TROOPS WILL SERVE TO AVOID SUCH SITUATION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

2. FROM HERE IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE GOF HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THIS STEP, WHICH SEEMS PRECIPITANT TO SAY THE LEAST AND COULD HAVE VERY SERIOUS IMPACT ON JITTERY EXPATRIATES NOT ONLY IN SHABA BUT ELSEWHERE AS WELL. AS POINTED OUT REF C, MASS EXODUS OF EXPATRIATES COULD CONSTITUTE FATAL BLOW TO ZAIRE'S ALREADY CRIPPLED ECONOMY. FRENCH AMBASSADOR, WHO IS STILL
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UNINFORMED OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS, FULLY SHARES MY CONCERNS AND HAS JUST SENT ANOTHER MESSAGE TO PARIS URGING GOF NOT TO EXECUTE PULL-OUT.

3. I BELIEVE WE MUST CONTINUE TO URGE BOTH THE FRENCH AND BELGIANS TO RETAIN THEIR TROOPS IN PLACE PENDING THE ARRIVAL OF OTHER FORCES. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN

AT LEAST AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO REASSURE THE
EXPATRIATES THAT SUCH FORCES ARE EXPECTED VERY SOON.

4. FINALLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT THE
FRENCH DECISION WAS MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ZAIRIAN
GOVERNMENT. THE LATTER'S REACTION COULD BE QUITE NEGATIVE,
AND WE SHOULD NOT FORGET THAT US PLANES ARE PROVIDING THE
TRANSPORT. (MOBUTU IS NOW VISITNG LUBUMBASHI, AND HE MAY BE
ON HAND HIMSELF FOR THE WITHDRAWAL IF OUR PLANES IN FACT
START ARRIVING THERE TOMORROW.)

5. WHILE I ASSUME WE SHOULD LEAVE THIS MATTER TO THE FRENCH
TO SORT OUT WITH THE GOZ, REQUEST GUIDANCE WHICH I
MIGHT USE WITH MOBUTU OR WHICH WOULD HELP CONSULATE LUBUMBASHI
IN ITS CONTACTS WITH THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY THERE.
CUTLER

SECRET

NNN

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